

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2536

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 LUBUMBASHI 0840

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CG

SUBJECT: VIEW FROM KOLWEZI, JULY 12,1978: THE SECURITY SITUATION

1. SUMMARY: VICE CONSUL VISITED KOLWEZI JULY 10/12 DURING WHICH HE ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH PAF(PAN AFRICAN FORCES)AND FAZ (ZAIRIAN ARMY) OFFICERS AS WELL AS LOCAL GECAMINES ZAIRIAN MANAGEMENT AND SMALL EQATRIATE COMMUNITY. FOLLOWING DISCUSSES THE CURRENT MILITARY SITUATION AS WELL AS THE RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE TWO MILITARY FORCES, AND THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. END SUMMARY

2. MILITARY OPERATION: BURDEN OF DEFENDING KOLWEZI AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE HAS BEEN MOST DSPLACED ON 600 MAN SENEGALESE AND 600 MAN MOROCCAN CONTINGENTS OF PAF.
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PAF IS RUNNING PATROLS WITHIN A PERIMETER RIGHLY 30 KILOMETERS RADIOUS FROM CENTER OF KOLWEZI, BUT OCCASIONALLY MUCH FURTHER. SENGELASE PAF COMMANDER COLONEL NDOYE SAID THAT HIS FORCES HAVE PATROLLED AS FAR AS ZAMBIAN BORDER.

3. NORTH AND WEST OF KOLWEZI ARE UNOCCUPIED AREAS WHICH

PAF CONSIDERS A VIRTUAL "NO-MANS" LAND. SMALL GROUPS OF REBELS ARE APPARENTLY OPERATING IN THESE AREAS ALTHOUGH THEIR DEGREE OF ORGANIZATION IS UNCLEAR. THEY MAY BE SIMPLY BRIGANDS. A SINGLE AMERICAN EMPLOYEE OF CIS ON A ROAD MAINTENANCE MISSION BETWEEN KOLWEZI AND MUSONOIE ON JULY 8 WAS CONFRONTED BY FOUR ARMED MEN IN MILITARY UNIFORMS JUST SOUTH OF THE LUFUPATDIVER(1012S/2512E) FOR TUNATELG AN ESCORT OF MOROCCAN TROOPS WAS FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN AND FIRED ON THE FOUR, CHASING THEM OFF. MOROCCANS BELIEVE ONE WAS KILLED BUT BODY WAS NOT RECOVERED. SUBSEQUENTLY PATROLS BY MOROCCANS IN THIS

AREA HAVE HAD NO CONTACT.

4. BELGIAN PRISTS AT KOLWEZI REPORT THAT KAFAKUMBA (0942S/2344E) WAS OCCUPIED BY FORCE OF ARMED MEN PRESUMABLY REBELS ON JUNE 30. NO COMBAT ENSUED AS FAZ ABANDONED ITS POSITIONS IN TOWN BEFORE THE ATTACK. OCCUPYING FORCE LEFT KAFAKUMBA ONE DAY LATER.

5. MOROCCAN COMMANDER, BAINARA LISTS HIS GREATEST NEED AS IN THE AREA OF INFORMATION. BAINARA SAID THAT ACCURATE INFORMATION PREFERABLY BASED ON AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE ON FLNC TROOP MOVEMENTS WAS A HIGH CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIORITY. PAF ALSO LACKS MAPS OF AREAS OF AZAMBIA AND ANGOLA WHICH ADJOIN SHABA.

6. A SIX MAN FRENCH ARMY TEAM HEADED BY MAJOR IS IN KOLWEZI. ITS MISSION IS COMBAT INTELLIGENCE AND LIAISON WITH THE PAF.

7. MILITARY POSITIONS:

THE PAN AFRICAN FORCES: UNDER THE COMMAND OF SENE GALESE COLONEL NDOYE PAF HAS DIVIDED THE KOLWEZI AREA INTO 4 SECTORS. THE WEST AND NORTH ARE IN THE HANDS OF MOROCCAN FORCES WHICH OCCUPY THE "OLD CITY" OF KOLWEZI, THE GECMINES CITE AND THE GECAMINES INSTALLATION (KOLWEZI/KAMOTA/LUILU AND THE ZINC FACTORY) THE SOUTH AND EAST ARE CONTROLLED BY THE SENEGALESE (AIRPORT"NEW CITY" MANIKA CITE, AND RAILROAD STATION) COLONEL NDOYE HAS AS HIS DEPUTY AT THE PAF HEADQUARTERS MOROCCANS COMMANDANT BUCHE. OPERATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE MOROCCAN FORCES IS COMMADANT MOHAMMID DIN BAINARA.

8. THE MOROCCAN FORCES ARE MUCH MORE IN EVIDENCE ON PATROLS AND IN CONTROL POSITIONS IN THE EUROPEAN AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS. MOROCCANS HAVE BETTER COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY AND MORE MOBILITY.

9. COLONEL NDOYE IS ON EXCELLENT TERMS WITH GECAMINES

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ZAIRIAN CADRE LEADERSHIP AND APPEARS TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE FAZ AS WELL. DESPITE THE OVERALL COMMAND STRUCTURE WHICH GIVES CHARGE TO THE SENEGALESE, THE MOROCCAN OPERATIONS COMMANDER DISPLAYS A MEASURE OF INDEPENDENCE BECAUSE OF HIS DIRECT CONTACT TO THE PAF COMMANDER-IN CHIEF COLONEL MAJOR LOUBARIS. NDOYE ON THE OTHER HAND IS RESPECTED BY THE BATTLEA TESTED MOROCCAN OFFICERS AS A PROVEN SOLDIER. NDOYE FOUGHT WITH THE FRNECH ARMY IN ALGERIA IN 1959 MORROCCAN BATTALION UNDER BAINARA ALL FOUGHT AS A GROUP IN SAHARA.

10. THE LAST ELEMENTS OF SENEGALESE BATTALION ARRIVED IN KOLWEZI WEEKEND OF JULY 8. SENEGALESE NOW HAVE THEIR FULL COMPLEMENT OF MEN AND MATERIAL.

ONLY REAL PROBLEMS IN COLONEL NDOYES VIEW IS NATURE
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OF MOROCCAN SUPPLIED FOOD PROVISIONS. DIFFERENCE
IFN FOOD PREFERENCES HAS CAUSED SOME SMALL MORALE
PROBLEMS AMONG THE SENEGALESE. NDOYE HAS REQUESTED
THAT PRODUCREMENT FOR NEXT PROVISIONING PPERATION
BE
DONE IN SENEGAL AS WELL AS IN FRANCE AND MOROCCO.

11. FAZ: GENERAL DIKUTA HAS REESTABLISHED THE HQ
OF THE 14TH BRIGADE, KAMANYOLA DIVISION AT WHAT WAS
FORMERLY "QUARTIER-GENERAL" OF SHABA SPECIAL MILI
TARY REGION. HQ IS LOCATED AT EASTERN EDGE OF THE
"NEW CITY" WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT THE UNITS UNDER HIS
COMMMAND, DIKUTA DID NOT NAME THE SPECIFIC UNITS
BUT INSTEAD REMAKRED THAT HE HAD A "LITTLE OF EVERY
THING" (UN PEU DE TOUT) INCLUDING THE LOCAL GEN
DARMERIE. KDIJUTA SIAD THAT HIS EFFORTS WERE STILL
IN THE DOMAN OF REORGANIZATION AND REGROUPMENT. HE
DID N
W EXPECT ANY REINFORCEMENTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE
NOR DID HE GIVE ANY INDICATION OF MOVEMENTS OR
OPERATIONS BY HIS TROOPS OUTSIDE THE KOLEZI AREA.

12. FAZ STATE OF EFFECTIVENESS IN AND AROUND KOLWEZI
SEEM TO BE VERY LOW. DEFENSIVE POSITIONS ARE
SEEMINGLY ALL HELD BY PAF TROOPS. VICE CONSUL HEARD
THAT FAZ IN KOLWEZI HAD RECENTLY BEEN APID FOR THE
FIRST TIME IN THREE MONTHS. FAZ IS SEEMINGLY DE
PENDENT UPON LOCAL POPULATION AND/OR LOCAL ECONOMY
FOR FOOD PROVISIONING. SUPPLY SITUATION HAS BEEN
COMPLICATED BY RECENT BREAKDOWN OF ONE FAZ C-130
TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, WHICH LOST A LANDING GEAR
AT KOLWEZI AIRPORT.

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13. FOCUS OF FAZ SUB-REGIONAL AUTHORITIES IS BETTER
IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR LOCAL POPULATION. SUB
REGIONAL COMMISSIONER COLONEL IKANSHA PLANS TO
LAUNCH CITY WIDE CENSUS OPERATION WITHIN TWO WEEKS
FAZ ADMINISTRATION HAS REQUESTED NEW DOCUMENTTATION
PROCEDURES AND ATERIALS FROM REGIONAL AUTHORITIES
IN SEARCH FOR NEW UNIFORM METHODS OF IDENTIFYING
LOCAL CITIZENS, ESPECIALLY THE UNEMPLOYED.

14 FAZ/CIVILIAN POPULATIONS RELATIONS: ACCORDING TO THE FEW EXPATRIES (LESS THAN THIRTY) CURRENTLY IN KOLWEZI LOOTING BY FAZ SOLDIERS HAS DIMINISHED FROM THE HIGH LEVEL OF ABOUT FOUR WEEKS AGO, BUT EXPATS ATTRIBUTE THIS TO THE SCARCITY OF INTACT GOODS AND POSSESSIONS REMAINING IN THE CITY . ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTOR OF BELGIAN SCHOOL, LYCEE JEAN XXIII OF FIFTY-TWO HOUSES INSPECTED BY HIS STAFF ONLY FOUR WERE RELATIVELY UNTOUCHED. LOOTING IS COMPLETE AND LOCUST-LIKE SOMETIMES INCLUDING ITEMS SUCH AS DOORS AND ROOFING. PAF FORCES HAVE AT TIMES INTERVENED USUALLY AT REQUEST OF GECAMINES OR EXPATRIATES TO CURB THE MOST FLAGRANT INSTANCES. VICE CONSUL OBSERVED TWO FAZ UNIMOGS LOADED WITH FURNITURE, MATTRESSES AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD GOODS HEADIN IN DIRECTION OF FAZ BILLETS NEAR HQ. EXPATRIANS TOLD VICE COL UL THAT WHILE FAZ OFFICERS ARE NO LONGER ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING AND SUPERVISING LOOTING ACTIVITIES, THEIR ATTEMPTS TO SUPPRESS IT ARE HALF-HEARTED AND INEFFECTIVE.

15. LOCAL CND (ZAIRIAN FBI) OFFICIAL TOLD VICE CONSUL THE GOZ EFFORTS TO PENETRATE LOCAL POPULATION HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL. EXPATRIATE SAID THAT THEIR CONTACTS WITH LOCAL FAZ LEADERSHIP LEAD THEM TO BELIEVE THAT

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FAZ CONSIDERED ENTIRE ZAIRIAN POPULATION OF KOLWEZI
TO BE POTENTIAL REBELS AND WOULD ACT AS SUCH.

16. DOMINANT ROLE OF GECAMINES IN LOCAL ECONOMY
HAS PLACED ITS LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN A COMPETITIVE
RELATIONSHIP WITH FAZ ADMINISTRATION. AS MOROCCAN
COMMANDER REMARKED THERE ARE IN EFFECT TWO GOVERNMENTS
IN KOLWEZI. FAZ AND GECAMINES: LOCAL POPULATION LOOKS
TO GECAMINES NOT ONLY AS ECONOMIC BENEFACTOR BUT AS
POTENTIAL SALVATION FROM FAZ REPRESSIVE MEASURES.
GECAMINES OFFICIALS IN TURN COUNT ON PAF TO SUPPORT
THEM IN CASE OF SEVERE FAZ INTIMIDATION.

17. PAF/CIVILIAN RELATIONS: THERE IS AN OBVIOUS DI
CHOTOMY IN CONTACTS WITH PAF BETWEEN ZAIRIANS AND
EXPATRIATES. ZAIRIANS NOTABLY GECAMINES CADRE PREFER
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TO DEAL WITH COLONEL NDOYE AND SENEGALES. MOROCCANS
ARE PREFERRED BY EXPATRIATES. AS YET THIS DOES NFZ
SEEM TO BE THE SOURCE OF ANY TENSIONS WITP PAF. WHILE
EXPATRIATES HAVE LITTLE CONTACT WITH SENEGALESE
GECAMINES OFFICIALS BY NATURE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES
AND THE FACT ATHAT MOROCCANS ARE GUARDING MOST
GECAMIMES INSTALLATIONS DEAL WITH MOROCCANS AND
APPEAR TO BE ON GOOD TERMS. OFFICIALLY GECAMINES CADRE
PASS THROUGH CHAIN OF COMMAND WITH PAF COMMANDER
NDOYE. SIX AMERICANS AT CONSTRUCTEURS ING-SHABA
CAMP NORTH OF CITY ARE ON EXCELLENT TERMS WITH MOROCCANS
HAVING SUPPLIED THEM WITH TWELVE PORTABLE RADIO UNITS,
FOOD AND CIGARETTES. APPRECOMATELY 10 MOROCCAN SOLDIERS
ARE BILETED AT CIS CAMP. BELGIAN PRIESTS AT
LYCEE JEAN XXIII ARE MUCH MORE DISTANT WITH PAF.
MOROCCANS DESCRIBE THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR AS LESS THAN
CANDID. BELGIAN PRIESTS REPORT OBSERVING SENEGALESE TROOPS
ENGAGED IN OCCASIONAL LOTTING IN ABANDONED HOUSES.

18. PAF/FAZ RELATIONS: WHILE ON SURFACE PAF AND FAZ
HAVE CLOSE AND COMPLEMENTARY RELATIONSHIP THERE IS
SOME EVIDENCE OF FRICTIONS ESPECIALLY BETWEEN
MOROCCANS AND FAZ. THERE IS ONE REPORT FROM EXPATRIATE
SOURCES THAT
MOROCCANS HAVE SO FAR SHOT AND KILLED
TWO FAZ SOLDIERS. AMERICANS AT CIS REPORT THAT MOROCCANS
HAVE CAUGHT FAZ SOLDIERS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TIETHER
LOOTING OR MISTREATING LOCALS AND DISCIPLINED THEM

ACCORDINGLY AT ONE POINT JAILING A FAZ CAPTAIN.
MOROCCANS COMMANDER DENIES THAT THERE ARE ANY
SUBSTANTIAL PROBLEMS WITH FAZ BUT ESSENTIALLY VERIFIED POLICE
ACTION BY HIS TROOPS. MOROCCAN COMMANDER RATIONALIZES
FAZ INDISCIPLINE AS A RESULT OF THEIR LACK OF SUPPORT
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AND LACK OF TRAINING. MOROCCANS COMMANDER REMARKED
THAT AT ONE POINT SINCE PAF ARRIVED HE REQUESTED
AND RECEIVED TWENTY FAZ SOLDIERS ASSIGNED T HIS
COMMAND. WITHIN TWO WEEKS HE HAD RETRAINED THEM INTO
AN EFFECTIVE FIGHTING FORCE. TYPIFYING TENSION
BETWEEN MOROCCANS AND FAZ IS COMMANDANT BAINARA'S REPORT
THAT DESPITE THREE REQUESTS, SUB REGIONAL COMMISSIONER
COLONEL IKANSHA HAS REFUSED TO MEET WITH HIM
TO DICUSS COMMON PROBLEMS.

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